

FIVE CENTS

HE IS SOCIALIST.

Millionaire J. G. Phelps Stokes
Makes Announcement.

Renounces Membership in the Independence League.

CAN DO MORE GOOD.

Has Been a Long Time Learning
His Lesson He Says.

Declares There Are Many Pau pers Among the Rich.

New York, July 14.—J. G. Phelps Stokes, millionaire, formally announces that he will cast his lot with the Socialist party, in a letter to the Independence league, which was given out today. Mr. Stokes was candidate for borough president on the league's last municipal ticket, which was headed

For years Mr. Stokes and his wife who was a factory girl, have devoted themselves to work in the slums of the city. For years also Mr. Stokes has

believed in the doctrines of the Socialists, but has not until now publicly gone over to them.

while he regards capital as necessary at present to the public welfare, he considers it so harmful when used selfishly that its complete control by the people, collectively, is essential. The so-called capitalist system, he declares, is indefensible ethically and disastrous industrially through the inescapable wage slavery to which

leads, and that it must be supplanted by a more righteous system of co-operation and mutual aid.

In his letter, which is dated from his home in the east side tenement district

"Hitherto I have refrained from co-
operating with the Socialist party
owing to the intense bitterness and ill-

It has required a vast amount of accumulated evidence to convince me that it is, and for long has been, impossible

one for the average worker to secure such material things as are necessary for his welfare and advancement in consequence of exploitation of his labor by privileged persons who take for their own enjoyment a large portion

Two Classes Here.
"I have been long in perceiving clearly that there are two chief economic

classes in America, as elsewhere—that whose poverty compels them to produce more than they require for their own maintenance, and whose wealth enables them to control and consume more than they produce and more than they render proportional service in exchange for; that the reward of the former class is invariably less than the value of their product.

whereas the reward or income of the latter class is greatly in excess of the value of its product and bears no proportionate relation to the value of the

"I have learned but gradually the injustice of the situation which confronts the average worker. Here

and earnest men and women by hundreds of thousands suffer privation and want, although surrounded by prosperity and plenty, and owe the sufferings chiefly to the monopolization of land and of the machinery of production by the few exclusively for the purpose of private gain; access to the land and machinery being denied unless the workers will produce for the few.

enough not merely for their own support, but for the maintenance of idle and luxurious as well. This to my mind a great injustice and one that demands early remedy. Personally I can no longer refrain from making every endeavor to arouse recognition of it.

Paupers Among Very Rich.

"Incidentally, I have observed that under our present industrial system

pauperism prevails as widely among the rich as among the poor; a pauper being one who, through disability

"I would not have it thought that the expense of capital on the part of the people, is supported at the expense of the people.

I know how difficult it is to arouse recognition of the practicability of such collective ownership among persons who derive benefits from the present system, and especially among those who are employed in the industry as labor exclusively for personal profit. But, when it comes to the question of the

"I believe that I can aid many in a fight against 'capitalism' (as distinguished from the 'socialism' of the Socialists) which is fundamentally unjust and harmful, and that its cost in needless human suffering is stupendous. I believe also that I can aid in the building of a better and more just way of applying the needs of human life."

"I intend offering my services to the Socialist party. Either with them or as an independent worker, I intend to strive to promote recognition of the fact that

which I believe, that the so called capitalist system, as such, is indefensible ethically, and disastrous industrially through its inescapable wage slavery to which it leads, and that it must be supplanted by a more righteous system of co-operation and mutual aid.

"I am not unmindful of the responsibility which I assumed toward the Independence League when I co-operated with you in its organization. For a time I believed that in the Independence League

my opportunities for largest service. I believe that I now see opportunities for still larger service through co-operation with the Socialist party."

A trip of the last party to the Orono